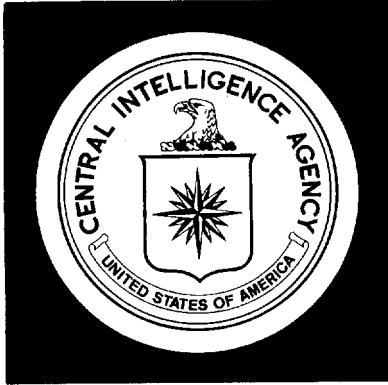


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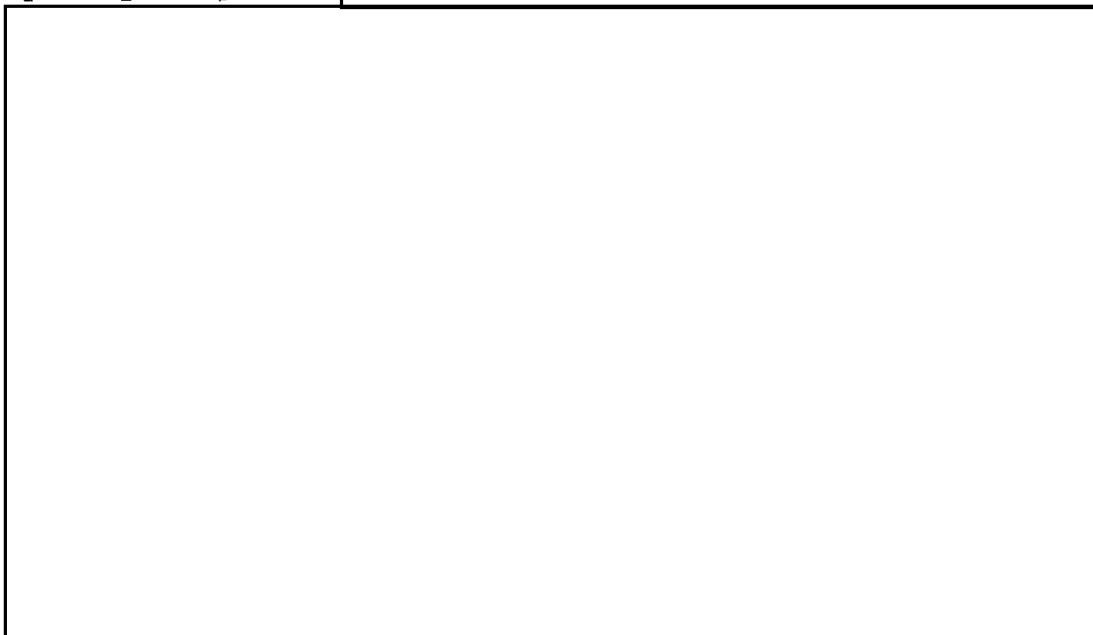


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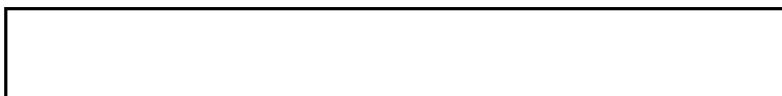
EGYPT: Cairo's displeasure with US Middle East
policy deepens.

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*EGYPT: CAIRO'S UNHAPPINESS WITH US POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS DEEPENED IN RECENT DAYS AND HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BOTH OFFICIALLY AND IN EGYPTIAN MEDIA.

IN A MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF THE US INTERESTS SECTION, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HAFIZ ISMAIL YESTERDAY STERNLY REPUDIATED WHAT HE TERMED WASHINGTON'S "ULTIMATUM" REGARDING ARAB GOVERNMENTS' SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN TERRORISM.

ISMAIL EMPHASIZED THAT CAIRO WOULD NOT TURN AWAY FROM THE PALESTINIANS. ISMAIL CHARGED THE US WITH LETTING EGYPT DOWN REPEATEDLY AND WITH REJECTING UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. ISMAIL ACCUSED WASHINGTON OF SUPPORTING ISRAELI "AGGRESSION" AND SAID THAT CAIRO IS ABLE TO LIVE THROUGH ANOTHER DOWNTURN IN RELATIONS WITH THE US FOR NOW. ISMAIL ALSO INFORMED THE US REPRESENTATIVE THAT HENCEFORTH HIS CONTACTS WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND NOT THROUGH HIS OFFICE.

IRRITATION WITH THE US HAS ALSO BEEN FEATURED IN THE EGYPTIAN MEDIA IN RECENT DAYS. REPORTS OF US PROMISES OF ADDITIONAL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR ISRAEL HAVE BEEN STRONGLY CRITICIZED. EGYPT IS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ENSURE THAT THIS SUBJECT WILL BE A PRIMARY TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING SET FOR 31 MARCH AND AT THE ARAB CHIEFS OF STAFF GATHERING ON 7 APRIL. CAIRO'S DISTRUST OF THE US IS ALSO EVIDENT IN EGYPTIAN PRESS CHARGES THAT THE "SPY PLANE" INCIDENT NEAR LIBYA ON WEDNESDAY IS "FURTHER PROOF OF US-ISRAELI COLLUSION."

EGYPT'S CURRENT BITTER MOOD STEMS FROM SEVERAL FACTORS. REPORTS OF ADDITIONAL US AIRCRAFT BEING PROVIDED TO ISRAEL REINFORCE THE EGYPTIAN CONVICTION THAT THE US WILL NOT APPLY THE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WHICH CAIRO CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL TO A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT. THESE REPORTS PROBABLY

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ARE PARTICULARLY IRRITATING AT THIS TIME IN LIGHT OF SADAT'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH THE US, DESIGNED IN PART TO HELP BREAK THE DEADLOCK WITH ISRAEL. SOME ARABS HAVE CRITICIZED SADAT'S DEALINGS WITH THE US AND HE NOW MAY FEEL MORE VULNERABLE TO THEIR ACCUSATIONS.

AS A RESULT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, EGYPT'S RECENT EMPHASIS ON DIPLOMACY IS LIKELY TO BE MUTED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. NONETHELESS, CAIRO WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO EXAMINE WITH INTEREST ANY INDICATIONS OF HEIGHTENED US ACTIVITY IN RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE.

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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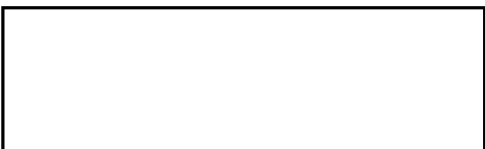
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